BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

BC Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 07-35 August 31st, 2007

- **Labour income increases 2.1% in second quarter**
- **Restaurant receipts slip in June**
- **82% of collisions caused by human actions or conditions; 16% related to driving conditions**

The Economy

- **Wages, salaries and benefits received by workers in the province increased 2.1% (*seasonally adjusted*) in the second quarter, following a 1.5% gain earlier in the year.** Newfoundland (+8.4%) and Alberta (+2.8%) were the only provinces to record stronger growth in labour income. Nationally, workers' earnings advanced 1.8% as strong growth in the west as well as Quebec (+2.0%) was offset by weaker increases in Ontario (+1.3%) and most of Atlantic Canada. Newfoundland's strong showing reflects the effect of a big increase in benefit payments recorded in the second quarter. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Restaurant, caterer and tavern receipts in the province slipped in June (-0.8% *seasonally adjusted*), mirroring a gain in May.** Although drinking places took in substantially more (+7.0%), food service establishments had a less lucrative month (-1.4%). Canadian establishments fared relatively well (+1.0%) with revenues up at both drinking establishments (+0.8%) and restaurants (+1.0%).
Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

Agriculture

- **Farm cash receipts in BC were virtually unchanged (+0.2% *unadjusted*) during the first six months of this year, compared the same period of 2006.** Nationally, receipts were up 9.8%, rising in all but two provinces: PEI (-7.2%) and New Brunswick (-9.6%). The increase at the national level was largely due to soaring market receipts (earnings from sales of livestock and crop products), which were driven by rising prices. Receipts from stabilization and other programs (-14.2% from the first six months of last year) continued to fall from record highs recorded in recent years.

  Canadian crop producers, especially grain growers, saw revenues increase sharply, climbing fifty percent or more in many cases. Overall crop receipts were up 25.6%. Livestock operators also fared well, with total Canadian livestock receipts increasing 4.9% during the first six months of this year, compared to the same period of 2006. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Traffic Collisions

- **In 2005, 82% of automobile collisions in BC involved human action or condition, while a further 16% were related to environmental conditions.** Inattentive driving (19%) and speeding (11%) contributed to a significant number of casualty collisions (resulting in injury or fatality). Failing to yield right of way (9%), following too closely (6%) and alcohol (6%) were among other human-related factors contributing to car accidents in 2005. Speed was a factor in approximately 37% of all reported fatal collisions and 26% involved alcohol.

  Young drivers (aged 16 to 20) made up less than 7% of all licensed drivers in 2005, but they accounted for 12% of all drivers involved in collisions. The likelihood of being involved in a collision significantly decreases after the age of 30. More males were involved in collisions than females in almost all age categories. Of all drivers of vehicles involved in collisions resulting in injury or fatality in 2005, 63% were male. Similarly, three quarters (75%) of all drivers travelling in speed-implicated vehicles involved in a casualty collision were male.

Report Labour Market Characteristics of the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Population in BC

Did you know...
Nearly half (46%) of British Columbians eat a snack between meals at least once a day. About 4 in 10 (38%) feel guilty about their snacking habits. *Source: Ipsos-Canada*

As in previous years, more casualty collisions happened on Friday (16.1 %) than on any other day of the week. The highest number of casualty collisions reported in 2005 occurred in December, and the smallest number was reported in February.

Data Source: Insurance Corporation of British Columbia

Travel

- **In the peak summer month of July, Vancouver International Airport was the second-busiest airport in the country, after Toronto's Pearson Airport.** Last month, 32,814 aircraft took off or landed in Vancouver, compared to 37,740 in Toronto. The third-busiest airport was Calgary International, with 22,514 aircraft arrivals and departures. International airports in Montreal (19,732) and Ottawa (15,805) handled less traffic. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Fuelled by the first increase in spending by American tourists (+4.4%, *seasonally adjusted*) in a year, Canada's international travel deficit narrowed during the second quarter of 2007.** Canadians spent approximately $1.7 billion more outside the country than foreigners spent in Canada. American spending helped push total foreign travel receipts up 2.1% to $4.2 billion. Meanwhile, Canadians spent $5.9 billion (-0.8%) away from home. Spending by Canadians south of the border was down (-3.3% to $3.2 billion), but residents travelling abroad spent a record $2.7 billion, a 2.3% gain over the previous quarter. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Record numbers of Canadians travelled overseas in the first quarter of 2007 registering an 11.4% increase in trips over the same quarter last year.** Canadians made 6.2 million overnight trips to the US and overseas, 7.3% more than in the same months of 2006. Overnight travel to the US (+4.8% to 3.7 million trips) reached the highest first quarter level since 1993.

  Overnight trips to Canada by visitors from the United States (-6.3% to 1.8 million) was down from the first quarter of 2006 but visitors from other countries arrived in larger numbers (+7.2% to 663,000).

The most popular overseas destinations for Canadians were Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Cuba. Overall travel to Central America surged 31.7%. Although travel to Europe declined (-14.7%), the United Kingdom and France remained in the top five overseas travel destinations. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Nation

- **The Canadian economy expanded 0.8% (*seasonally adjusted*) in the second quarter, building on solid growth (+1.0%) earlier in the year.** The increase was largely driven by strong domestic demand for goods and services (+1.1%), as consumer spending (+1.2%) and business investment (+1.1%) both helped keep the economy on an upward track. Business spending on residential structures (+1.3%) and machinery & equipment (+1.5%) remained robust. Spending on imported goods and services jumped 1.6%, increasing for the first time since last fall. Exports advanced at a more modest pace (+0.7%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canadian manufacturers' prices were 0.3% lower this July than in the same month last year.** The year-over-year decrease in the overall Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) marked the third consecutive month of decline, due in part to continued drops in prices for petroleum & coal products. Excluding petroleum & coal, the overall IPPI would have been 0.3% higher than in July of 2006.

  The appreciation of the Canadian dollar is also driving producer prices down, since many Canadian commodities are sold in international markets. Excluding the exchange rate effect, producer prices would have risen 1.7% (rather than falling 0.3%) over the twelve month period.

  BC softwood lumber prices continued to fall (-6.4%) with interior (-9.2%) producers receiving significantly less for their products than in July of last year, while those at coastal mills received slightly more (+0.6%). Prices for BC pulpwood chips were up substantially (+45.6%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

***Infoline** Issue: 07-35*
August 31st, 2007

Infoline Report

Contact:Cathy Stock
(250) 953-3703
Originally published in
Earnings and Employment Trends Issue 07-04

Labour Market Characteristics of the Off-Reserve Aboriginal Population in BC

Since April 2004, Statistics Canada has been collecting data through the monthly Labour Force Survey on the labour market status of Aboriginal peoples living off-reserve in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. To get more reliable information for the British Columbia component of the survey, the Province sponsored an increased sample, which was phased in over six months starting in October 2004. We now have almost three full years of annual data covering the off-reserve First Nations[1] and Métis populations living in BC. This paper presents highlights from that data.[2]

Aboriginal Population in BC

According to the 2001 Census, 170,025 British Columbians identified themselves as Aboriginal—4.4 percent of the total population. The Aboriginal population is made up of those persons who self-identified with at least one Aboriginal group (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) or who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian (as defined by the Indian Act of Canada) or who were members of an Indian Band or First Nation.

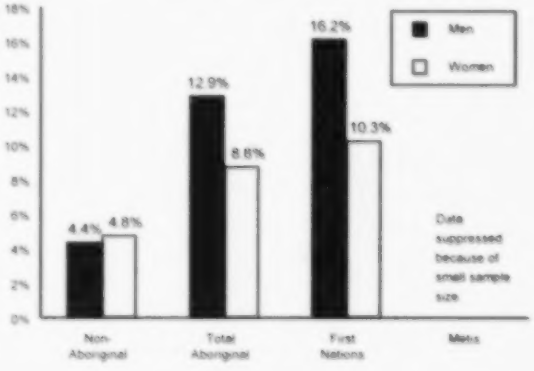
Employment and Labour Force Participation

In a time when the British Columbia labour market has been performing extremely well, with an average unemployment rate of 4.8 percent in 2006,[3] the Aboriginal unemployment rate still remains more than double that of the non-Aboriginal population—10.8 percent. First Nations people show the highest incidence of unemployment; among the working aged population, the unemployment rate of 13.1 percent is more than three times that of the non-Aboriginal population (4.6 percent).

The Métis people are finding work more easily than First Nations people, but their unemployment rate, at 7.4 percent, is considerably higher than that of the non-Aboriginal population (4.6 percent).

While the unemployment rates for non-Aboriginal men and women have been very similar in the last year (4.4 percent and 4.8 percent respectively), Aboriginal men appear to have more difficulty in finding work than Aboriginal women, particularly First Nations men.

Aboriginal men have higher unemployment rates than Aboriginal women



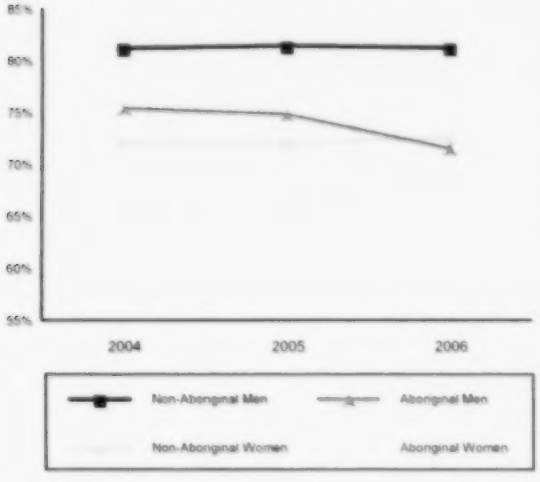
Source: Labour Force Survey 2006

Overall, the labour force participation rates for non-Aboriginal persons have been stable since 2004; however, rates are decreasing

[1] First Nations as used here is synonymous with North American Indians.
[2] The 2004 annual average is based on April 2004 to December 2004.
[3] Among the working aged population (15 and over).

slightly for Aboriginal men and increasing among Aboriginal women. The drop in the labour force participation rate for Aboriginal men is because their population is growing but the number of men in the labour force has not kept pace. The increase in the participation rate for Aboriginal women is a result of more women joining the labour force at a faster rate than the population is growing.

The labour force participation rates of Aboriginal men aged 15-64 are declining



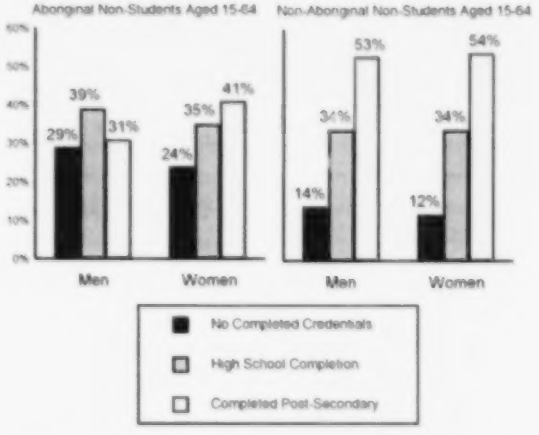
Source: Labour Force Survey 2006

Education

The large gap in educational attainment between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people has been reduced, but there is still considerable room for improvement. In 2006, more than a quarter (27 percent) of the prime working aged (15–64) Aboriginal people in BC, excluding those who were still studying, did not have a high school diploma or a post-secondary credential. Only 6 percent of the Aboriginal population had a university degree, compared with 23 percent of the non-Aboriginal population.

The gender differences in educational attainment are also of interest. Aboriginal women living off-reserve have higher education levels than men. Seventy-six percent of Aboriginal women have completed high school or post-secondary education (including a university degree) compared with 71 percent of Aboriginal men. Comparable rates for the non-Aboriginal population are 88 percent and 86 percent for women and men respectively. Additionally, 23 percent of non-Aboriginal women and 22 percent of non-Aboriginal men have a university degree compared with 8 percent and 5 percent of Aboriginal women and men.

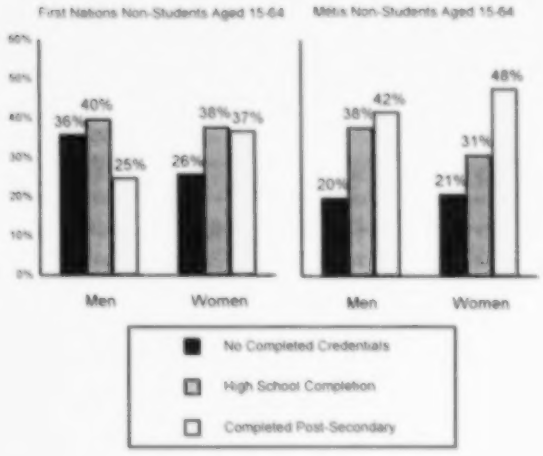
The educational attainment of Aboriginal women is higher than that of Aboriginal men



Note: Excludes anyone currently attending school.
Source: Labour Force Survey 2006

First Nations women living off-reserve have higher education levels than First Nations men. Seventy-five percent of First Nations women have completed high school or post-secondary education (including a university degree) compared with 65 percent of First Nations men. As shown below, Métis women are more likely to have completed post-secondary studies than their male counterparts—48 percent and 42 percent for women and men respectively.

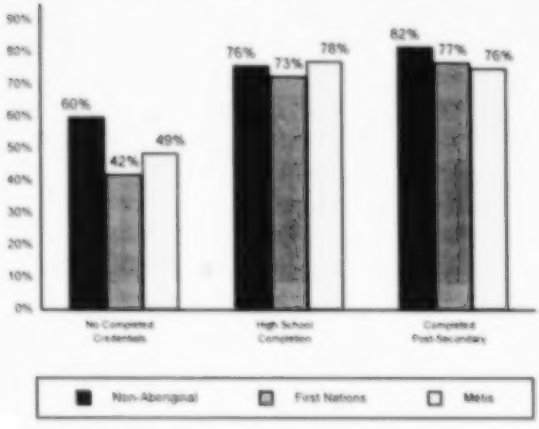
Métis women are more likely to have completed post-secondary education than Métis men



Note: Excludes anyone currently attending school.
Source: Labour Force Survey 2006

When you compare the employment rates[4] between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people who have completed post-secondary education, many of the differences in labour market outcomes decrease. It becomes very clear that improving education levels of Aboriginal individuals makes a difference in their labour market outcomes.

The gap in employment rates between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people varies depending on education levels



Source: Labour Force Survey 2006

Aboriginal people are underrepresented in post-secondary education in British Columbia, but the relative number of Aboriginal people enrolling for post-secondary studies is encouraging. In 2005/06,[5] some 290,000 domestic students were enrolled in BC's public post-secondary college sector. Aboriginal people account for 5.1 percent (over 15,000) of the students enrolled.

Aboriginal Youth and Education

High school non-completion rates for Aboriginal youth have been a concern. In today's environment, high school graduation is considered a minimum requirement for most jobs. In 2006, 21 percent of non-Aboriginal youth (15-24), excluding those who were still studying, had not yet completed a credential—either a high school graduation or a post-secondary credential—compared with 35 percent of Aboriginal youth.

[4] The employment rate (or the employment/population ratio) is the number of persons employed expressed as a percentage of the population 15-64.

[5] Academic year Sept. 1 to Aug. 31 (source: BC Post Secondary Central Data Warehouse http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/datawarehouse/)

On the positive side, more Aboriginal young women (15–24) have completed high school or some post-secondary than ever before. In 2006, 69 percent of young Aboriginal women had completed a high school credential and or post-secondary education – compared with 50 percent in 2004.[6]

Occupations and Industry

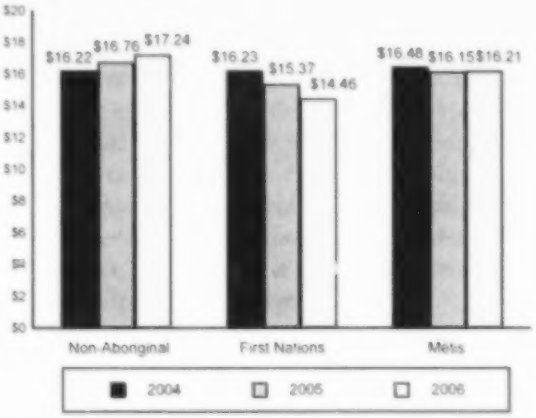
The disparity in educational attainment means the skill levels of the jobs that are available to Aboriginal people are considerably lower than those available to non-Aboriginal people. Only 6 percent of Aboriginal individuals have a university degree, so a lot of professions are not available. Overall, the top three occupations for Aboriginal people are sales and service occupations (29 percent), trades, transport and equipment operators (21 percent) and business, finance and administration (15 percent). These three account for almost two-thirds of the off-reserve Aboriginal labour force in BC. A quarter of the Métis workforce are employed as trades, transport and equipment operators.

Other interesting information gathered from the Labour Force Survey data are that First Nations people are twice as likely as non-Aboriginal people to work in the forest sector. The Aboriginal population shows lower representation in the professional, scientific, and technical services sector and the education sector. Aboriginal people have lower levels of unionization. Relatively fewer Aboriginal people are self-employed because fewer are in the professions and the professions have the highest incidence of self-employment.

Wages

Aboriginal employees earn less on average than their non-Aboriginal counterparts. For example in 2006, Aboriginal employees with a high school credential earned $15.11 per hour compared to $17.24 per hour for non-Aboriginal employees. Métis individuals, who have completed a high school diploma, are doing slightly better than their First Nations counterparts ($16.21 versus 14.46 per hour).

The hourly average wages for those with high school completion but no post-secondary education are declining for Aboriginal people



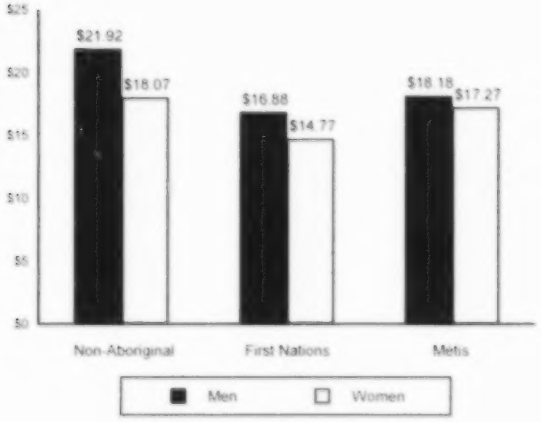
Source: Labour Force Survey 2006

There does remain a differential in wages for those who have completed high school plus post-secondary but that is explainable. All post-secondary credentials are not of equal value and as was already shown, relatively more of the non-Aboriginal population have university degrees. Among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples who are working, the hours spent on the job are fairly similar at 36.4 versus 36.9 average hours per week, respectively.

[6] The 2004 annual average is based on April 2004 to December 2004.

Among the non-Aboriginal population, men earn $3.85 more per hour than women. In Aboriginal communities the hourly wage rates between men and women are much are closer; for example, Métis men earn only $.91 more per hour than women. We would expect Aboriginal women to have higher hourly wage rates based on the fact that Aboriginal women have higher levels of education but occupational choices also have a substantial impact on hourly wages. Over 90 percent of women (Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal) are working in the service sector where hourly wages are lower, whereas men are more likely to work in the goods-producing sector (includes: agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, oil and gas, utilities, construction and manufacturing) where hourly wages are higher. Over 40 percent of Aboriginal men are working in the goods-producing sector compared to only 8 percent of Aboriginal women.

Average hourly wage rates between Aboriginal men and women are closer than those of non-Aboriginal men and women



Source: Labour Force Survey, 2006

Infoline

August 31, 2007
Issue 07-35

fax transmission information service from BC Stats

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/07	% change on one year ago
BC	4,352.8	1.3
Canada	32,852.8	1.0
GDP and INCOME (Released Apr 25)		
(BC - at market prices)	2006	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	179,701	6.4
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	150,741	3.6
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	34,971	2.3
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	21,984	4.8
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Jun	3,496	-0.3
Merchandise Exports - Jun	2,653	-3.8
Retail Sales - Jun	4,729	0.0
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Jul 2007)	one year ago	% change
BC	1.6	1.7
Vancouver	2.0	2.2
Victoria	0.8	1.3
Canada	2.2	1.8
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Jul '07	prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,355	-0.4
Employed - BC	2,258	-0.1
Unemployed - BC	98	-6.9
		Jun '07
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	4.1	4.4
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.0	6.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Aug 29/07	Aug 30/06
Prime Business Rate	6.25	6.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	7.05	6.40
- 5 year	7.24	6.85
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Aug 29/07	Aug 30/06
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.0592	1.1100
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.9430	0.9016
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jul '07	one year ago
BC	744.19	3.2
Canada	754.33	3.4

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Environmental Statistics Portal

A new Environmental Statistics page with links to a variety of data and reports related to different environmental issues has been added to the site. The first issue of a new BC Stats periodical, "Environmental Statistics," can be accessed from this page. It is a reprint of an "Exports" article, with some additional data tables.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/env/env_stat.asp

Regional Employment Projections

BC Stats, with the financial assistance of the Ministry of Advanced Education, developed the Regional Employment Projection Model (REPM), designed to project industrial and occupational employment in regions of the Province of British Columbia. The model projects employment at the Regional District level and then aggregates back up to the College Region for reporting purposes.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/lss/repm.asp

Socio-Economic Profiles & Indices

The 2006 edition of these widely-monitored reports provide the most complete and up-to-date basis for measuring and comparing the social and economic dimensions of regions in the province. Released April 4.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/index.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Current Statistics, August 2007
- **Next week**
- Business Indicators, August 2007

BC Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: (250) 387-0327 Fax: (250) 387-0329 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca